

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (previously presented) A web cam system, comprising:
2 a digital camera for capturing an image of a user,
3 wherein said digital camera is configured to generate image data,
4 wherein said digital camera is configured to be connected with a computer, and
5 wherein said digital camera is configured to provide said image data to said
6 computer;
7 a computer readable medium encoded with computer executable instructions
8 embodied therein for causing the interfacing of said digital camera with said computer, said
9 computer executable instructions comprising:
10 an image capturing computer readable program code portion configured to
11 cause said computer to effect the capturing of said image, wherein said image comprises
12 still or video images;
13 an internet interfacing computer readable program code portion configured
14 to cause said computer to effect the transmittal of said image data, for incorporation of
15 said image data into a web cam page, to a web site hosting said web cam page; and
16 an interlude switch,
17 wherein said interlude switch is configured to be toggled between a view mode
18 and an interlude mode;
19 wherein said view mode provides live images from said digital camera; and
20 wherein said interlude mode provides at least one alternate image from a source
21 other than a live image captured by said digital camera;
22 wherein said interlude mode is active in the absence of a phone call by a user;
23 wherein, upon detecting the initiation of a phone call by a user, said interlude
24 switch switches to said view mode to provide said live image.

1 2. (original) The web cam system of claim 1 wherein said interlude switch
2 when toggled to said view mode:
3 causes said image capturing computer readable program code portion to drive said
4 digital camera to capture images of a scene; and
5 causes said internet interfacing computer readable program code portion to effect
6 the transmittal of said image data, for incorporation of said image data into said web cam page,
7 to a web site hosting said web cam page.

1 3. (original) The web cam system of claim 1 wherein said interlude switch
2 when toggled to said interlude mode:
3 causes said image capturing computer readable program code portion to stop said
4 digital camera from capturing images of a scene;
5 causes said internet interfacing computer readable program code portion to effect
6 the replacement of said image data with preselected images; and
7 causes said internet interfacing computer readable program code portion to effect
8 the transmittal of said preselected images, for incorporation of said preselected images into said
9 web cam page, to a web site hosting said web cam page, as if said preselected images were
10 captured by said digital camera.

1 4. (original) The web cam system of claim 1 wherein said interlude switch
2 when toggled to said interlude mode:
3 causes said image capturing computer readable program code portion to stop said
4 digital camera from capturing images of a scene; and
5 causes said internet interfacing computer readable program code portion to drive
6 said web site to effect the replacement of said image data with preselected images, as if said
7 preselected images were captured by said digital camera.

1 5.-9. (canceled)

1 10. (previously presented) The web cam system of claim 1 wherein said
2 alternate image is one of: still images, slide shows, video images, commercials, or images
3 captured by another web cam system.

11. (original) The web cam system of claim 10 wherein said preselected images are stored on said computer.

12. (original) The web cam system of claim 10 wherein said preselected images are stored at a remote site.

13.-17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended) A method of operating a web cam, comprising:
~~transmitting an interlude image to the Internet;~~
capturing live user images of a user using a first digital camera;
generating image data from said images;
connecting said first digital camera to a computer;
providing said image data to said computer;
capturing of said image in said computer, wherein said image comprises still or
video images;
effecting the transmittal of said image data, for incorporation of said image data
into a web cam page, to a web site hosting said web cam page;
putting an interlude switch into an interlude mode;
providing at least one alternate interlude image in place of captured images from
said first digital camera, when said web cam is operating in its interlude mode;
detecting the initiation of a telephone call by said user;
toggling an interlude switch from an interlude mode to a view mode, in response
to said detecting, ~~to~~ to substitute said user images for said interlude image; and
replacing said interlude images for said web cam page with live images when said
interlude switch is in said view mode;
wherein said interlude mode is active in the absence of a phone call by a user.

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

1 21. (previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein said interlude
2 image is a stored still image.

1 22. (previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein said interlude
2 image is a stored video image.

1 23. (previously presented) The method of claim 18 wherein said interlude
2 image is an image from a second digital camera.

1 24. (canceled)

1 25. (canceled)

1 26. (previously presented) The web cam system of claim 1 wherein said
2 interlude switch is computer code configured to cause a change in the source of images.

1 27. (previously presented) The web cam system of claim 1 wherein said
2 source other than a live image captured by said digital camera is a second digital camera.

1 28. (canceled)